

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AR

SUBJECT: AYEE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ON MIDDLE SECTOR
OF PARANA RIVER

REF: BUENOS AIRES A-264, AUGUST 19, 1974

1. MR. A.R. CARAM, FINANCIAL MINISTER ARGENTINE
EMBASSY WASHINGTON VISITED USDOC/MEPD ON FEBRUARY 6 TO
REPORT THE STATUS OF THE MULTI-PURPOSE HYDRO DEVELOPMENT
ON THE MIDDLE SECTOR OF THE PARANA RIVER.

2. MR. CARAM SAID AQUA Y ENERGIA ELECTRIC RECENTLY
AWARDED THE PROJECT TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY TO THE
SOVIETS. THE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1977.
CARAM ALSO HAS INFORMATION THAT THE ESTIMATED PROJECT
VALUE IS NOW 4 BILLION DOLLARS WITH THE FIRST DAM TO BE
COMPLETED IN 1981 AND THE SECOND DAM IN 1985-90. THE
PROJECT WILL PROVIDE 4000 MW INSTALLED CAPACITY,
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IRRIGATION, AND DEEP WATER NAVIGATION.

3. WE TOLD MR. CARAM THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THIS PROJECT OPPORTUNITY (REFAIR) AND DISSEMINATED THE INFORMATION TO U.S. INDUSTRY BY OUR EARLY-WARNING MAILOUTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT IN COMMERCE BUSINESS DAILY.

MR. CARAM WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT ON THIS PROJECT ON U.S. INDUSTRY INTEREST TO PURSUE LATER PHASES OF THE PROJECT. WE TOLD CARAM THAT U.S. FIRMS HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE BIDDING AGAINST THE SOVIETS ON HYDRO PROJECTS IN THE U.S., CANADA, AND LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING ARGENTIA. WE TOLD CARAM THAT SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ONE PHASE OF A PROJECT WILL NOT NECESSARILY DETER U.S. FIRMS FROM TRYING TO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL TENDERING ON OTHER PHASES. MR. CARAM SAID HE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT THE DETAILED OVERALL BIDDING SCHEDULE FOR THIS PROJECT.

5. WE BROUGHT MR. CARAM UP TO DATE ON U.S. SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION ON OTHER ARGENTINE HYDRO PROJECTS (SALTO GRANDE, RIO GRANDE, YACYRETA-APIPE, AND CORPUS). WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON CARAM'S INFORMATION.
INGERSOLL

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